

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

A monthly newsletter of the Idaho Department of Labor



Volume 16.5

May 2004 Issue/March 2004 Data

IN THIS ISSUE...

State Overview

Unemployment Rate 1

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 2

Economic Indicators..... 6

Panhandle 7

Seaport..... 9

Population Update 9

Treasure Valley 11

Population Update..... 12

Magic Valley..... 15

Ag Outlook Update 15

Southeast 17

Northeast..... 19

F.Y.I...... 21

Idaho Income & Wage Data,
2002 & 2003..... 21

County Population Data 25

Glossary..... 29

State Overview

IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASES TO 4.6 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2004 was 4.6 percent, a decrease of two-tenths of a percentage point from February's revised rate of 4.8 percent. Idaho's March unemployment rate was 1.0 percentage point below the 5.6 percent rate experienced one year ago, and a 1.1 percentage point below the national unemployment rate. The national unemployment rate in March increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.7 percent from February. The national unemployment rate for March 2004 was down one-tenth of a percentage point from March 2003.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* increased in March from February. The number of unemployed persons decreased 800 to 32,500. Seasonally adjusted, the number of Idaho residents who were working in March increased 4,000 from February to 670,300. There were 702,800 persons in Idaho's labor force in March, an increase of 3,200 over February. This was the second consecutive month that Idaho's labor force exceeded 700,000 people.

Idaho's employment has steadily increased since December 2002 with one minor exception, July 2003, when the number of persons employed decreased by 100. The number of persons working in Idaho has increased significantly so far during 2004 with a 3,800 increase in January followed by an increase of 2,600 persons in February. The trend continued in March as the number of persons in Idaho working increased by 4,000. It is significant that in March 2004 there were 18,100 more people working than in March 2003. In addition, the number of jobless workers, 32,500, was the lowest number of unemployed persons since March 2001 when 31,800 persons were unemployed.

Employment opportunities typically begin to increase in March as the season changes and the weather improves, leading to increases in agricultural and construction activity. Most retail outlets experience an increase in activity as the spring and summer shopping season begins. Home and business site maintenance activities surge as the good weather encourages people to begin home and garden improvement projects, and commercial sites begin grounds maintenance work. Activity in the recreation sectors continued to be strong in March because the winter sports usually don't give way to the spring sports until late in the month or in early April. Good weather during March this year

encouraged more outdoor activity as it meant an early start to the spring recreational period.

AREA AND COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

State Table 1 on page 3 presents the labor force details for Idaho Labor Market Areas (LMAs), counties, and major cities.

- Only one county experienced a double-digit unemployment rate in March: Adams at 11.4 percent, a decrease of two-tenths of a percentage point from February and eight-tenths of a percent point below the 12.2 percent experienced in March 2003. Unemployment rates at or below 3.0 percent occurred in six counties during March 2004 including: Bonneville County at 3.0 percent, Oneida County at 2.7 percent, Latah County at 2.4 percent, Lewis County at 2.3 percent, Owyhee County at 1.8 percent, and Madison County at 1.5 percent.
- The Cassia-Minidoka Labor Market Area (LMA) had the highest unemployment rate of the state's LMAs at 7.6 percent. This rate was more than a full percent higher than the rate in Idaho-Lewis LMA, which was 6.4 percent. The Panhandle LMA followed closely at 6.2 percent.
- The Bonneville LMA had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.4 percent, down both from last month and last year. The Magic Valley LMA also had a March 2004 rate below four percent at 3.9 percent rate. The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area had a 4.3 percent unemployment rate.
- Of all the state's LMAs, only the Cassia-Minidoka LMA had a March 2004 unemployment rate that was higher than in March 2003. This area's labor market problems became evident in the fall of 2002, and then worsened periodically through 2003 as J.R. Simplot, a major food processing plant, implemented a phased lay-off/closure procedure. Not many people have left the LMA's labor force during this time, but more of them are now unemployed.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State Table 2 on page 5 provides details on Idaho Nonfarm Payroll Jobs employment.

An additional 7,500 jobs were added from February to Idaho's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* total for March. This was a 1.3 percent growth rate. The year-over-year growth rate was slightly greater at 1.8 percent as 9,900 new jobs were added over the March 2003 total. Eighty percent of the new jobs added from February to March were in the *Service-Providing Industries*.

The *Goods-Producing Industries* in March showed an addition of 1,500 jobs since February with *Construction* contributing 1,300 of those. *Construction* has maintained its prominent place because the industry's fundamentals of continued population growth, low interest rates, and infrastructure improvements have remained positive and steady even in the face of relative high un-

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is published monthly by the Idaho Department of Labor. All information is in the public domain and may be duplicated without permission; however, the Idaho Department of Labor should be cited as the source.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the United States Department of Labor. Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to:

jhyer@jobservice.us

or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.

Editor

Jean Cullen (jcullen@jobservice.us)

DIRK KEMPTHORNE, GOVERNOR

Roger B. Madsen, Director



www.idahoworks.org

Idaho's Workforce Development System

www.idahoworks.org

[Business Services](#)

[Job Seekers](#)

[Other Services](#)

[Job Search](#)

[Training & Education](#)

[Career Center Locations](#)

[Labor Market Information](#)

[Search This Site](#)

[Customer Evaluation](#)

[Links to Other Sites](#)



The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TTY 800-377-3529 through Idaho Relay Service.

employment rates and the downturn in the state's electronics industry.

Logging showed a large 17.6 percent drop in jobs from February to March, but the resulting 1,400 jobs level is similar to that experienced a year ago. The reason for the drop was the thaw as snow melted and logging venues became too muddy for operations. This industry had a high employment level of about 2,200 jobs last year. Lumber prices, especially for sheet goods, are high so there are hopes that both *Logging* and *Sawmills* employment will increase. However, Idaho wood products industries still face a limited timber harvest on federal lands and the prospect of renewed competition from imports if the dollar gains strength.

Although *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* did not have any monthly movement in its number of jobs, the March 2004 job total is slightly above March 2003. After significant layoffs and downsizing that started during the first quarter of 2001, this industry has experienced 11 months of relative stability with the jobs count averaging about 16,300. There are still ups and downs as one electronics firm, Zilog, in Nampa recently announced its closure and the loss of 140 jobs at the same time the price of memory chips is rising to the benefit of Idaho's largest electronics manufacturer, Micron Technology in Boise.

Idaho's *Food Manufacturing* industry usually slows down in the late winter/early spring months. Food processing plants undertake routine maintenance breaks, stored products for processing are nearly depleted, and plant workforces are adjusted for the upcoming early crops harvest. The exception is food processing done in meat packing plants, dairies, and cheese factories.

The February-to-March job gains within the *Service-Providing Industries* were concentrated in *Administrative & Support Services*; *Leisure & Hospitality*; and *State and Local Government*.

No significant events occurred in these three industries that caused a 900+ jobs increase in each, but rather a continuation of trends seen in the last few months. Call centers and temporary staffing services dominate the *Administrative & Support Services* industries and both have been adding jobs. The winter recreation conditions were favorable and positive news about national employment and productivity gains might have encouraged Idahoans to engage in more leisure and hospitality activi-

State Table 1: March 2004 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	35,457	1,240	3.5	34,217
Nez Perce County	23,135	689	3.0	22,446
Asotin County, WA	12,322	551	4.5	11,771
Boise City MSA	252,427	10,842	4.3	241,586
Ada County	180,305	6,313	3.5	173,993
Canyon County	72,122	4,529	6.3	67,593
Pocatello City MSA*	40,397	1,782	4.4	38,615
Bonneville LMA	86,043	2,906	3.4	83,138
Bingham County	22,673	911	4.0	21,762
Bonneville County	51,315	1,558	3.0	49,757
Butte County	1,602	73	4.5	1,529
Jefferson County	10,454	364	3.5	10,089
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	20,383	1,548	7.6	18,836
Cassia County	10,293	688	6.7	9,606
Minidoka County	10,090	860	8.5	9,230
Idaho-Lewis LMA	8,306	536	6.4	7,770
Idaho County	6,777	500	7.4	6,277
Lewis County	1,529	36	2.3	1,493
Panhandle LMA	93,767	5,842	6.2	87,925
Benewah County	4,264	328	7.7	3,936
Bonner County	18,133	1,051	5.8	17,082
Boundary County	4,466	250	5.6	4,216
Kootenai County	60,721	3,743	6.2	56,978
Shoshone County	6,183	471	7.6	5,713
Magic Valley LMA	57,567	2,251	3.9	55,316
Gooding County	8,038	280	3.5	7,758
Jerome County	10,731	438	4.1	10,292
Twin Falls County	38,798	1,532	3.9	37,266
Adams County	1,753	200	11.4	1,553
Bear Lake County	3,126	154	4.9	2,971
Blaine County	12,124	411	3.4	11,714
Boise County	2,692	146	5.4	2,546
Camas County	459	25	5.3	435
Caribou County	3,292	247	7.5	3,046
Clark County	595	37	6.2	558
Clearwater County	3,669	327	8.9	3,343
Custer County	2,227	163	7.3	2,065
Elmore County	9,582	488	5.1	9,094
Franklin County	5,444	171	3.1	5,272
Fremont County	5,129	289	5.6	4,840
Gem County	5,910	375	6.3	5,536
Latah County	16,235	383	2.4	15,852
Lemhi County	3,878	238	6.1	3,640
Lincoln County	2,156	118	5.5	2,038
Madison County	11,642	179	1.5	11,464
Oneida County	1,777	48	2.7	1,729
Owyhee County	3,797	68	1.8	3,729
Payette County	9,874	893	9.0	8,981
Power County	3,376	310	9.2	3,067
Teton County	3,815	151	4.0	3,664
Valley County	3,931	268	6.8	3,663
Washington County	4,278	412	9.6	3,866
State of Idaho	702,790	32,494	4.6	670,296
Idaho Cities				
Boise	114,396	3,954	3.5	110,442
Coeur d'Alene	21,650	1,044	4.8	20,606
Idaho Falls	31,161	1,040	3.3	30,121
Lewiston	19,929	532	2.7	19,398
Nampa	22,186	1,516	6.8	20,670
Pocatello	29,382	1,314	4.5	28,068
Twin Falls	20,506	863	4.2	19,644

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

ties. State and local governments begin many outdoor maintenance and repair projects as the weather improves.

Only *Local Government Education* had a large numerical year-over-year decline in jobs and this continues the trend seen in recent months. Public school districts have been in a budget crunch and have been reducing staffing levels mainly through attrition. However, continued population growth will translate into additional public school jobs as time goes by.

Developments in Agriculture

The March Idaho agricultural news was dominated by the topic of water, or the sudden lack of water. The promising snowy, winter weather abruptly ended in March and late storms did not occur. Some portions of Eastern Idaho did not receive average precipitation even from the winter storms. The result is that Idaho is once again facing a potential water shortage year. This affects not only water for irrigation, but also affects hydroelectric power generation for the irrigation systems. In addition, other water users have claims on Idaho's water supplies: fish, recreationists, municipalities, etc. Some of the water is claimed by out-of-state downstream users.

Nine counties already have been declared drought emergency areas: Caribou, Fremont, and Oneida Counties in Southeast Idaho, four counties in the Northeast—Butte, Clark, Custer, and Lemhi—and Blaine, Gooding, and Lincoln Counties in South Central Idaho. These declarations are based on measurements of snow packs, reservoir levels, stream flows, and subterranean water supplies with resulting water supply and demand calculations determining projected water adequacy.

The Idaho Agricultural Statistical Service (IASS) reported that Idaho farmers' planting intentions for all of the major crops, except hay, oats, and dry beans, are 93 to 95 percent of the acreage planted last year. Oats and dry beans acres planted are relatively minor compared to the other crops. (*Source: "Agriculture in Idaho,"* April 7, 2004, published by IASS.) Some of the planting reduction is due to normal events: crop rotations, price expectations, and land diversion/conservation practices. Other reasons for planting reductions involve the expected water situation with short season crops, less water-intensive crops, or simply no crops being planted.

The IASS did not report potato planting inten-

tions by acres. Other sources have reported that it is generally expected there will be fewer acres planted this year than last. The main reasons cited for the crop reduction are 1) the weather—growers think it will be hotter than usual with little precipitation, resulting in low water supply and high demand; 2) lower consumer demand for French fries, combined with growing imports of French fries and other processed potato products; 3) closure of processing plants close to growing areas and the increased costs of transporting raw potatoes to other plants; and 4) a hope to increase prices via reduced supplies.

Another water development concerned the use of water from the Snake River Aquifer. South Central Idaho narrowly averted a water curtailment call by the Idaho Department of Water Resources for the trout producers with senior water rights to this underground water supply. The call was part of an adjudication won by the aquaculture industry to keep the Snake River Aquifer permanently charged.

Because over five years of serious drought, the aquaculture industry asked for a curtailment that would equal 26,500 acre-feet of water for water users that irrigated more than 1.5 acres and had water rights junior to July 1962. This would have forced 25 large dairies to close, several municipalities to cut back water to residents, and several farmers to liquidate. At the last moment, several interested groups, local legislators and Governor Kempthorne brokered a one-year water plan to keep the water going to all users. There will be many meetings in the next year to finalize a viable plan.

James Adams, Sr. Planner/Economist
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3219
E-mail: jadams@jobservice.us

State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	% Change From				
	Mar 2004*	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	571,100	563,600	561,200	1.3	1.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	96,900	95,400	97,500	1.6	-0.6
Natural Resources & Mining	3,100	3,300	2,900	-6.1	6.9
Logging	1,400	1,700	1,300	-17.6	7.7
Mining	1,700	1,600	1,600	6.3	6.3
Metal Ore Mining	400	400	500	0.0	-20.0
Construction	33,600	32,300	32,700	4.0	2.8
Manufacturing	60,200	59,800	61,900	0.7	-2.7
Durable Goods	36,800	36,500	38,000	0.8	-3.2
Wood Product Manufacturing	6,900	6,900	7,300	0.0	-5.5
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,800	2,800	3,100	0.0	-9.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	3,000	0.0	-3.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,500	0.0	-2.9
Machinery Manufacturing	2,600	2,500	2,700	4.0	-3.7
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,500	16,500	16,000	0.0	3.1
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0	-4.3
Other Durable Goods	5,200	5,000	6,200	4.0	-16.1
Nondurable Goods	23,400	23,300	23,900	0.4	-2.1
Food Manufacturing	15,400	15,700	15,900	-1.9	-3.1
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,200	7,300	7,800	-1.4	-7.7
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Other Nondurable Goods	2,600	2,200	2,500	18.2	4.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	474,200	468,200	463,700	1.3	2.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	114,500	113,700	113,900	0.7	0.5
Trade	95,900	95,100	95,300	0.8	0.6
Wholesale Trade	24,200	23,900	24,400	1.3	-0.8
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,000	10,900	11,300	0.9	-2.7
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	10,800	10,800	11,300	0.0	-4.4
Retail Trade	71,700	71,200	70,900	0.7	1.1
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10,700	10,700	10,500	0.0	1.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment	7,400	7,100	7,300	4.2	1.4
Food & Beverage Stores	12,200	12,200	12,200	0.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	14,800	14,800	14,700	0.0	0.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	18,600	18,600	18,600	0.0	0.0
Utilities	1,800	1,800	1,900	0.0	-5.3
Transportation & Warehousing	16,800	16,800	16,700	0.0	0.6
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,100	8,200	8,100	-1.2	0.0
Information	9,200	9,200	9,100	0.0	1.1
Telecommunications	3,300	3,300	3,100	0.0	6.5
Financial Activities	27,000	26,900	26,300	0.4	2.7
Finance & Insurance	20,400	20,300	19,800	0.5	3.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,600	6,600	6,500	0.0	1.5
Professional & Business Services	71,200	68,900	68,200	3.3	4.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	29,500	29,200	28,900	1.0	2.1
Scientific Research & Development	7,200	7,200	7,400	0.0	-2.7
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,200	7,300	7,300	-1.4	-1.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	34,500	32,400	32,000	6.5	7.8
Administrative & Support Services	33,600	31,500	31,000	6.7	8.4
Educational & Health Services	64,500	64,400	61,700	0.2	4.5
Educational Services	7,800	7,700	7,300	1.3	6.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	56,700	56,700	54,400	0.0	4.2
Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,000	0.0	3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	52,900	51,800	52,400	2.1	1.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7,100	6,900	6,700	2.9	6.0
Accommodation & Food Services	45,800	44,900	45,700	2.0	0.2
Accommodation	7,500	7,300	7,500	2.7	0.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	38,300	37,600	38,200	1.9	0.3
Other Services	18,300	17,800	18,000	2.8	1.7
Total Government	116,600	115,500	114,100	1.0	2.2
Federal Government	12,800	12,600	12,800	1.6	0.0
State & Local Government	103,800	102,900	101,300	0.9	2.5
State Government	31,600	31,100	29,300	1.6	7.8
State Government Education	15,100	14,900	14,700	1.3	2.7
State Government Administration	16,500	16,200	14,600	1.9	13.0
Local Government	72,200	71,800	72,000	0.6	0.3
Local Government Education	37,000	36,900	38,200	0.3	-3.1
Local Government Administration	32,200	32,000	31,000	0.6	3.9
Local Government Tribes	3,000	2,900	2,800	3.4	7.1

*Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State Table 3: Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	702,800	699,600	690,700	0.5	1.8
Unemployment	32,500	33,300	38,500	-2.4	-15.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.8	5.6		
Total Employment	670,300	666,300	652,200	0.6	2.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	697,200	691,200	685,000	0.9	1.8
Unemployment	39,100	41,800	45,000	-6.5	-13.1
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	6.0	6.6		
Total Employment	658,100	649,400	640,000	1.3	2.8
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.7	5.6	5.8		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	182.9	181.9	180.3	0.5	1.4
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	187.4	186.2	184.2	0.6	1.7
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	35,950	33,390	30,720	7.7	17.0
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,010	0.0	8.1
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	25,850	23,290	21,350	11.0	21.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	9,819	10,306	13,332	-4.7	-26.4
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	115,868	110,299	142,258	5.0	-18.6
<i>Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾</i>					
Weeks Compensated	100,335	96,117	103,963	4.4	-3.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$22,469,817	\$21,548,714	\$23,189,907	4.3	-3.1
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$223.95	\$224.19	\$223.06	-0.1	0.4
Covered Employers	42,026	42,329	40,864	-0.7	2.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$215,245,813	\$215,965,902	\$215,586,862	-0.3	-0.2

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Exceptional weather conditions and a high level of construction activity pushed the Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment to 6.2 percent in March. Relatively warm, dry weather at lower elevations allowed construction to occur at a rapid pace, gave tourist attractions an early start to the summer season, and encouraged summer residents to arrive early. *Construction* employment was 8.8 percent higher in March 2004 than in March 2003. Relatively warm weather at lower elevations, along with an impressive snowpack on three area ski hills, helped push *Leisure & Hospitality* employment 5.0 percent higher this March than in March 2003. Spring break-up never really arrived this year, so most loggers were able to keep working in March. Spring break-up normally is a four- to eight-week period when muddy roads close logging roads or limit loads on them, causing high unemployment in logging communities. *Natural Resources & Mining* (490 Mining jobs plus 790 Logging jobs in March) was 12.3 percent higher this March than the previous March. In addition, hiring at the Center Partners and Verizon call centers and for the new Costco store in Coeur d'Alene brought 330 new jobs at a time of year when jobs usually are scarce.

The Panhandle's three ski areas ended a great ski season on April 11. Communities offering snowmobiling opportunities also benefited from this winter's bumper crop of snow. In addition, convention and business travel has nearly snapped back to its pre-9/11 level. Hotel-motel receipts, as reported in the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel and Convention Tax reports, were 13.1 percent higher at \$11.8 million from November 2003 to February 2004 than the \$10.4 million in November 2002 to February 2003. Bonner County's hotel-motel receipts rose 18.3 percent to \$3.1 million; Kootenai County's receipts rose 11.7 percent to \$7.3 million; and Shoshone County's receipts rose 26.3 percent to \$567,854.

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	March 2004*	Feb 2004	March 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	93,760	93,040	91,480	0.8	2.5
Unemployed	5,840	6,060	6,910	-3.6	-15.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	6.5	7.6		
Total Employment	87,920	86,980	84,570	1.1	4.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,750	91,660	90,750	1.2	2.2
Unemployed	8,080	8,270	9,350	-2.3	-13.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.7	9.0	10.3		
Total Employment	84,670	83,390	81,400	1.5	4.0
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	68,150	67,280	66,350	1.3	2.7
Goods-Producing Industries	12,580	12,530	12,150	0.4	3.5
Natural Resources & Mining	1,280	1,350	1,140	-5.2	12.3
Construction	4,220	4,090	3,880	3.2	8.8
Manufacturing	7,080	7,090	7,130	-0.1	-0.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,680	2,660	2,870	0.8	-6.6
Other Manufacturing	4,400	4,430	4,260	-0.7	3.3
Service-Providing Industries	55,570	54,750	54,200	1.5	2.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	13,240	13,180	13,010	0.5	1.8
Wholesale Trade	1,320	1,310	1,340	0.8	-1.5
Retail Trade	10,130	10,040	9,970	0.9	1.6
Utilities	390	390	380	0.0	2.6
Transportation & Warehousing	1,400	1,440	1,320	-2.8	6.1
Information	1,290	1,180	1,100	9.3	17.3
Financial Activities	2,910	2,880	2,830	1.0	2.8
Professional & Business Services	6,070	5,820	6,230	4.3	-2.6
Educational & Health Services	6,920	6,850	6,650	1.0	4.1
Leisure & Hospitality	7,970	7,790	7,590	2.3	5.0
Other Services	2,230	2,190	2,200	1.8	1.4
Government Education	5,340	5,350	5,230	-0.2	2.1
Government Administration	8,400	8,310	8,200	1.1	2.4
Government Tribes	1,200	1,200	1,160	0.0	3.4

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonner County

- Blanchard, an unincorporated town along State Highway 41 north-west of Spirit Lake, received an Idaho Community Development Block Grant of \$150,000 to complete a new 3,820-square-foot community center that also will be used as a senior center.
- The community around Blanchard definitely will be growing. StoneRidge Golf & Recreational Community, a 650-acre development a mile west of Blanchard, recently broke ground on the \$2.6 million, 28-unit VineYards condominiums along its 14th and 15th holes. Later this spring, StoneRidge will begin construction on a 100-site motor coach village. This fall, it will start a 30-unit townhome development near the 18th hole.

- The Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce still is answering phone calls from people who read the January *Sunset* magazine article touting Sandpoint as “the number 1 small town to live in.” Real estate agents also have seen a rise in inquiries. McCall Aviation’s plan to begin offering regular passenger service between Sandpoint and Seattle in June has also piqued interest in the area.
- After two years without a bowling alley, Sandpoint residents soon will be scoring strikes and spares at R&S Alley at 120 South Division. Owners Brandon and Laurie Birch soon will reopen the bowling lanes.
- Café Trinity, the new eatery at 116 North First Avenue in Sandpoint, is named for a Southern cooking term referring to onions, celery, and green pepper—the essential base for gumbos and other Creole foods. In addition to Louisiana favorites, the restaurant serves southwestern food and California cuisine; on weekends it offers live music.
- Tomm Cann opened Affordable Transmission on 25 Gun Club Road in Sagle, an unincorporated town 10 miles south of Sandpoint.
- Food Barn Discount, a 1,500-square-foot discount grocery, recently opened at the intersection of Church and High in Priest River. Owned by Robert Kovaas and Debra Baker, the discount store offers a full range of groceries at a lower cost.

Boundary County

- Big Boyz Toyz is the new automotive dealership north of Bonners Ferry. Owned by Chris and Shelley Harper, the dealership sells new and used cars, trucks, boats, ATVs, motorcycles, jet skis, and heavy equipment.

Kootenai County

- Harrison, a charming town of 270 residents on the shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene and on the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes, added 8,000-square feet of moorage to its public docks over the last three years. Harrison also upgraded its boat launch and improved its public swimming area. The projects totaled approximately \$800,000. Harrison’s harbor is a popular area. Avista Corp. reports that 70,610 vehicles stopped at the harbor parking between Memorial Day and Labor Day in 2003. With the 79-mile Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes along the old rail line between Mullan and Plummer gaining in popularity, Harrison also is seeing more visitors arrive on foot or bicycle. The renovation of the former Gateway Marina restaurant and convenience store, now the Foxfire Marina, also should bring more visitor dollars into local hands. Harrison, one of Idaho’s newest Gem Communities, is working hard to make plan for attracting more tourists and improving the town’s economic prospects.
- North Idaho College (NIC) recently broke ground on its long-awaited \$11.9 million Health and Science Building. Slated for completion by August 2005, the 58,000-square-foot building will house ten regular classrooms, two video broadcast classrooms, two auditoriums, and eight labs. NIC’s enrollment rose to 4,450 in the fall of 2003—up 34.8 percent from its enrollment of 3,300 in the fall of 1993.
- Nighthawk Radiology Services, based in Coeur d’Alene, received \$25 million in venture capital to help it expand. Nighthawk provides off-hour telera-diology services to more than 300 hospitals, clinics, and radiology groups across the United States. After 5:00 p.m. local time, Nighthawk sends X-rays and CAT scans to doctors in Sydney, Australia, who provide interpretations within minutes. Given the U.S. shortage of radiologists, it’s often difficult to find radiologists willing to be disturbed in the middle of the night to interpret X-rays and CAT scans. Because the time difference between the two countries is several hours, after hours in the U.S. translates to daytime hours in Australia. The 30 doctors in Australia are U.S. citizens with American medical training. Nighthawk also employs 30 support staff in Sydney. Nighthawk is considering a similar operation in Switzerland. At its headquarters in Coeur d’Alene, four-year-old Nighthawk currently employs 42 people who develop software, conduct marketing, and provide administrative support.
- Hayden is home to these new businesses: Blue Plate Café, serving traditional breakfast and lunch items at 10015 Government Way; Auto Center Northwest, offering auto maintenance and repair at 164 East Hanley; Noodles Express, a fast-food restaurant serving Asian food in the Prairie Shopping Center; and Rocky Mountain Low-Carb Foods & Creamery, selling food for diabetics and people on diets at Highway 95 and Honeysuckle.
- Post Falls recently welcomed these new businesses—Caife Cistin, a coffee house in the River City Plaza; The Hair Zoo, a hair salon serving children and adults in the River City Plaza; Interior Solutions, a wholesaler of office furniture at 285 Frederick Street; and Active Audio, selling and servicing auto sound systems and other electronic accessories at 237 South Young Avenue.
- New Coeur d’Alene businesses include Fortune Whole Health Clinic offering traditional Chinese medicine at 810 North Henry, Suite 420; Pro Golf of America discount store at 408 West Haycraft; Lake-wood Aesthetic Center, offering collagen and botox injections, and other skin care services at 2020 Lake-wood Drive; The Skewed Grill restaurant in the

Continued on page 28



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

In March, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased slightly (30 jobs) from February 2004. A decrease of 460 jobs was recorded over the year since March 2003. In year-over-year comparisons, job decreases occurred in almost all industries, except *Other Manufacturing* and *Transportation* sectors. Significant decreases year-over-year were recorded in *Educational & Health Services* and *Construction*. Unfortunatley, these two sectors had been providing most of the new jobs in the 16 previous months. An analysis of these sectors shows that they are slowing down.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Population

Population in North Central Idaho between 2001 and 2003 increased only 0.5 percent, according to recently released data by the U.S. Bureau of Census. Idaho's population increased by 3.4 percent during that time. Three of the five counties in North Central Idaho (Clearwater, Idaho, and Latah), lost ground when compared to population growth in the other 39 counties of Idaho. Clearwater County lost the most population decreasing by 2.6 percent in 2003 from 2001. The region's economic engine, Nez Perce County, increased by only 1.9 percent, far below increases generated in other Idaho economic engines such as Canyon County with an 8.9 percent increase or in Kootenai County which posted an increase of 5.1 percent. By far, the North Central Idaho region as a whole has not participated in the strong population growth experienced by other regions in the state. See Seaport Table 2 for more detail.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Watco has announced that they are preparing the paperwork to abandon about 30 miles of rail line near Orofino. The line connects Konkolville with the former Jaype plywood plant near Pierce. Watco acquired Camas

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	March 2004*	Feb 2004	March 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,460	35,500	36,300	-0.1	-2.3
Unemployment	1,240	1,200	1,300	3.3	-4.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.4	3.6		
Total Employment	34,220	34,300	35,000	-0.2	-2.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,640	35,630	36,430	0.0	-2.2
Unemployment	1,520	1,560	1,560	-2.6	-2.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.4	4.3		
Total Employment	34,120	34,070	34,870	0.1	-2.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	25,720	25,690	26,180	0.1	-1.8
Goods-Producing Industries	4,300	4,290	4,320	0.2	-0.5
Natural Resources & Mining	210	210	200	0.0	5.0
Construction	920	930	1,010	-1.1	-8.9
Manufacturing	3,170	3,150	3,110	0.6	1.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	560	550	590	1.8	-5.1
Food Manufacturing	60	50	90	20.0	-33.3
Paper Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,120	0.0	7.1
Other Manufacturing	1,350	1,350	1,310	0.0	3.1
Service-Providing Industries	21,420	21,400	21,860	0.1	-2.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,420	5,270	5,370	2.8	0.9
Wholesale Trade	590	600	630	-1.7	-6.3
Retail Trade	3,570	3,450	3,470	3.5	2.9
Utilities	90	90	80	0.0	12.5
Transportation & Warehousing	1,170	1,130	1,190	3.5	-1.7
Information	350	350	370	0.0	-5.4
Financial Activities	1,830	1,830	1,850	0.0	-1.1
Professional & Business Services	1,320	1,350	1,400	-2.2	-5.7
Education & Health Services	3,910	3,920	4,010	-0.3	-2.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2,480	2,470	2,520	0.4	-1.6
Other Services	1,040	1,060	1,090	-1.9	-4.6
Government Education	2,260	2,380	2,480	-5.0	-8.9
Government Administration	1,940	1,900	1,950	2.1	-0.5
Government Tribes	870	870	820	0.0	6.1

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Seaport Table 2: Population Changes in Idaho & North Central Idaho 2001-2003

County/Area	Population			Percent Change		
	2001	2002	2003	2003-2001	2002-2001	2003-2001
Idaho	1,321,309	1,343,124	1,366,332	1.7	1.7	3.4
Clearwater County	8,628	8,469	8,401	-0.8	-1.8	-2.6
Idaho County	15,452	15,498	15,413	-0.5	0.3	-0.3
Latah County	35,182	35,045	35,087	0.1	-0.4	-0.3
Lewis County	3,619	3,729	3,748	0.5	3.0	3.6
Nez Perce County	36,983	37,171	37,699	1.4	0.5	1.9
Asotin (Wa.)	20,700	20,700	20,600	-0.5	0.0	-0.5

SOURCE: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, April 17, 2003

Prairie RailNet in March and renamed it the Great Northwest Railroad. The railroad also travels up the Clearwater Valley to Kooskia and links the Lewiston-Clarkston area with tracks of major carriers in eastern Washington. Watco executives noted that the line from Konkolville to Jaype had not been used for more than two years following the closure of Potlatch Corp.'s Jaype plywood mill, and added that the line also is in need of considerable repair and maintenance.

- A building permit has been approved for a 34,700-square-foot, three-story Best Western Motel at 615 Main Street in Orofino. The 49-room unit, which will take approximately 11 months to construct, will be located along the Clearwater River just upstream from the mouth of Orofino Creek. The total area of the property is 2.2 acres; the motel/parking project will occupy 1.25 acres. Close to 6,000-square feet of stone will decorate the motel and grounds to match the river setting.

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- Area farmers have their fingers crossed for a good harvest. Wheat, barley, lentil, and pea farmers are aware that another drought season is predicted for southern Idaho. County extension agents said that the wheat in North Central Idaho is in good shape now and if the area gets normal amounts of rainfall this spring, there won't be much of a possibility of drought this year. The overall winter wheat acreage planted has dropped by 5.0 percent statewide, while spring wheat is expected to decrease by nearly 6.0 percent, according to Don Gerhardt, director of the Idaho Agriculture Statistics Department of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Boise. Water shortages have led southern farmers to turn to more versatile crops. Irrigation provides farmers more options such as growing barley, sugar beets, alfalfa hay, corn, beans, potatoes, and oats as part of crop rotations. In Idaho and Latah Counties, farmers are limited in their options and winter wheat is expected to remain the largest moneymaker. Southern Idaho farmers "have the risk of not getting the winter rains and we have the risk of not getting the spring rain," he said. "We all talk about the weather, but we can't do anything about it."

Latah County

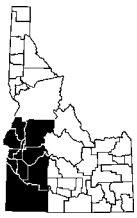
- Interim University of Idaho (UI) President Gary Michael has announced a plan to balance the 2005 budget with a university-wide 6.0 percent holdback. University of Idaho department heads and college leaders have approximately five months to cut 6.0 percent from their budgets. "We project the university has an ongoing shortfall of about \$6 million that must be addressed. Many options have been on the table—none of them easy," Michael wrote in a letter to the university community. "Rather than impose an

institution-wide personnel action, we will balance the FY05 budget by requiring an additional 6.0 percent holdback of all responsibility centers, i.e. the colleges and administrative units. After sifting through faculty comments and concerns, Michael wrote that the 6.0 percent holdback appeared to be the best option. "This action accomplishes two things: It actually squeezes the expenditures out of the budget, rather than just postpones them; and it allows responsibility centers to determine how best to address their individual budget situations," Michael wrote. "This action has its disadvantages as well. The 6.0 percent comes on top of the \$2.5 million in reallocations and General and Administrative indirect cost rate increases that were already a part of the FY05 multi-year budget plan. It will impact workload, productivity and morale ...There will be layoffs; jobs may be eliminated. At the end of the day, though, fewer people will be financially impacted this way than with any across-the-board action." Over the next three or more years the university expects to eliminate an approximate \$30 million budget shortfall combined with more than \$12 million in deficits.

Nez Perce County

- In May, Potlatch Corporation became the first publicly traded timber company in the nation to win certification from the Forest Stewardship Council for managing forestland in an environmentally friendly way. Potlatch's management of its 670,000 acres of forestland in Idaho met the council's rigorous standards. Penn Siegel, chief executive officer of Potlatch, said certification helps the company prove to the public that it cares for the land. "Third party certification provides, I think, very good documentation to the public that we are doing what we say we are doing," Siegel said there is a growing market for timber products from certified forestlands, and the company hopes to benefit from that market. "But even if there were no financial benefits, it is the right thing to do," Siegel said.
- Nez Perce Tribal leaders have announced designs for a new casino. Group West, an architecture firm from Seattle, has finished final plans for a two-phase project that includes a casino and motel. The casino will feature a bingo parlor, meeting center, a sports bar, and buffet-style eatery. Smith indicated the tribe hopes to complete construction by June 2006 for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature event, which is expected to draw thousands of tourists. The event is part of a national project commemorating the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Doug Tweedy, Regional Labor Economist
1158 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3511
E-mail: dtweedy@jobservice.us



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for March 2004 was 4.3 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was one-tenth of a percentage point below the February 2004 rate of 4.4 percent and 1.4 percent below the March 2003 rate of 5.7 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 1,100, or 0.5 percent, from February 2004, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 400 individuals, or 3.6 percent. The increasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed created an overall increase of 700 individuals, or 0.3 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force*, from February 2004. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons increased by 8,000, or 3.4 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 3,400 individuals, or 23.9 percent, creating a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 4,600 individuals, or 1.9 percent, in the *Civilian Labor*

Treasure Valley Table 2: March 2004
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	180,305	6,313	3.5	173,993
Adams	1,753	200	11.4	1,553
Boise	2,692	146	5.4	2,546
Canyon	72,122	4,529	6.3	67,593
Elmore	9,582	488	5.1	9,094
Gem	5,910	375	6.3	5,536
Owyhee	3,797	68	1.8	3,729
Payette	9,874	893	9.0	8,981
Valley	3,931	268	6.8	3,663
Washington	4,278	412	9.6	3,866
Statewide	702,790	32,494	4.6	670,296

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties

	Mar 2004*	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,400	251,700	247,800	0.3	1.9
Unemployment	10,800	11,200	14,200	-3.6	-23.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.4	5.7		
Total Employment	241,600	240,500	233,600	0.5	3.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,500	250,700	247,600	0.7	2.0
Unemployment	11,800	13,000	15,000	-9.2	-21.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	5.2	6.1		
Total Employment	240,700	237,700	232,600	1.3	3.5
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	233,600	230,500	226,300	1.3	3.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	45,700	44,800	44,100	2.0	3.6
Natural Resources & Construction	15,600	15,000	14,600	4.0	6.8
Manufacturing	30,100	29,800	29,500	1.0	2.0
Durable Goods	23,200	22,900	22,400	1.3	3.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,800	0.0	-11.1
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Machinery Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,800	14,700	14,300	0.7	3.5
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,700	0.0	-11.8
Other Durable Goods	2,900	2,700	2,000	7.4	45.0
Nondurable Goods	6,900	6,900	7,100	0.0	-2.8
Food Manufacturing	5,100	5,200	5,400	-1.9	-5.6
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,100	1,000	1,000	10.0	10.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	187,900	185,700	182,200	1.2	3.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	44,600	44,100	43,500	1.1	2.5
Trade	37,600	37,100	36,500	1.3	3.0
Wholesale Trade	9,700	9,700	9,900	0.0	-2.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,100	6,000	6,300	1.7	-3.2
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	2,800	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	27,900	27,400	26,600	1.8	4.9
Food & Beverage Stores	4,300	4,200	4,100	2.4	4.9
General Merchandise Stores	6,100	5,900	5,800	3.4	5.2
All Other Retail Trade	17,500	17,300	16,700	1.2	4.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0	0.0
Utilities	600	600	600	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,400	6,400	6,400	0.0	0.0
Information	4,000	4,000	3,900	0.0	2.6
Telecommunications	1,500	1,400	1,300	7.1	15.4
Financial Activities	12,700	12,600	12,200	0.8	4.1
Finance & Insurance	9,400	9,300	9,100	1.1	3.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,300	3,300	3,100	0.0	6.5
Professional & Business Services	32,900	32,200	31,500	2.2	4.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	10,800	10,600	10,300	1.9	4.9
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,500	5,400	5,500	1.9	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	16,600	16,200	15,700	2.5	5.7
Educational & Health Services	30,000	29,800	28,000	0.7	7.1
Educational Services	2,500	2,400	2,500	4.2	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	27,500	27,400	25,500	0.4	7.8
Hospitals	9,700	9,700	8,900	0.0	9.0
Leisure & Hospitality	20,400	20,000	19,600	2.0	4.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,700	2,600	2,200	3.8	22.7
Accommodation & Food Services	17,700	17,400	17,400	1.7	1.7
Accommodation	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	15,800	15,500	15,500	1.9	1.9
Other Services	6,800	6,700	6,700	1.5	1.5
Total Government	36,500	36,300	36,800	0.6	-0.8
Federal Government	5,600	5,500	5,300	1.8	5.7
State & Local Government	30,900	30,800	31,500	0.3	-1.9
State Government	13,600	13,500	13,700	0.7	-0.7
State Government Education	4,100	4,100	4,300	0.0	-4.7
State Government Administration	9,500	9,400	9,400	1.1	1.1
Local Government	17,300	17,300	17,800	0.0	-2.8
Local Government Education	11,000	10,900	10,700	0.9	2.8
Local Government Administration	6,300	6,400	7,100	-1.6	-11.3

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Force, from March 2003. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for March 2004 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2 on page 11.

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 3,100 jobs or 1.3 percent from February to March 2004, while year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* experienced a gain of 7,300 jobs, or 3.2 percent. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 900 jobs with job increases noted in *Natural Resources, Mining & Construction* (600 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (100 jobs), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100 jobs), while job losses were noted in *Food Product Manufacturing* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,600 jobs with job increases noted in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (1,000 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (500 jobs), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (900 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100 jobs) while job losses were noted in *Wood Product Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Machinery Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), and *Food Product Manufacturing* (-300 jobs).

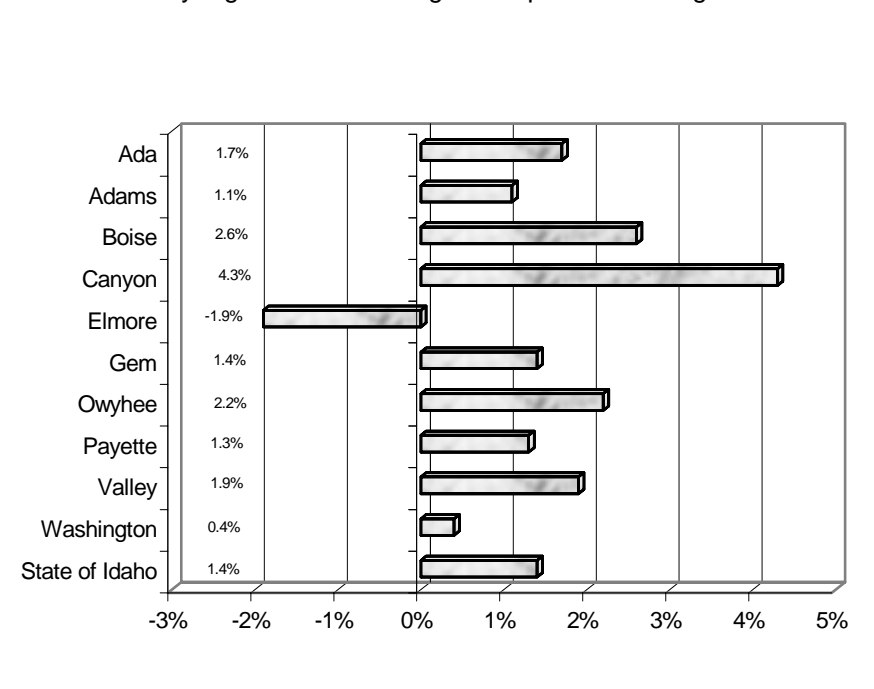
In *Service-Providing Industries*, jobs gained outweighed jobs lost; 2,200 jobs were added in the Boise City MSA from February to March 2004. Job gains were experienced in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100 jobs), *Food and Beverage Stores* (100 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (200 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (200 jobs), *Telecommunication Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (100 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (200 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises Services* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (400 jobs), *Educational Services* (100 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (100 jobs), *Food Service & Drinking Places* (300 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *Federal Government* (100 jobs), *State Government Administration* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (100 jobs). Job losses occurred in *Local Government Administration* (100 jobs). Year-

over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 5,700 jobs or 3.1 percent. Job gains were noted in *Food & Beverage Stores* (200 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (300 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (800 jobs), *Information Services* (100 jobs) including *Telecommunications Services* (200 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (200 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (500 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (900 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (2,000 jobs) including *Hospitals* (800 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (500 jobs), *Food Service & Drinking Places* (300 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *Federal Government* (300 jobs), *State Government Administration* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (300 jobs). Job losses were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-200 jobs), *State Government Education* (-200 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (-800 jobs).

SPECIAL TOPIC: 2003 Population Update

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2003 population data. Treasure Valley Figure 1 illustrates the percent change in population for all ten Southwest Idaho counties from 2002 to 2003; the FYI section on page 25 shows the population data for 2000 through 2002 for all counties in the state. As shown in Figure 1, only Elmore County experienced a loss in population over the year while the region's nine other counties experienced population gains. Ada County gained 5,479 resi-

Treasure Valley Figure 1: Percentage to Population Change 2002-2003



dents over the year, or 1.7 percent; Adams County gained 39 residents, or 1.1 percent; Boise County gained 184 residents, or 2.6 percent; Canyon County gained 6,186 residents, or 4.3 percent; Gem County gained 222 residents, or 1.4 percent; Owyhee County gained 243 residents, or 2.2 percent; Payette County gained 285 residents, or 1.3 percent; Valley County gained 146 residents, or 1.9 percent; and Washington County gained 43 residents, or 0.4 percent over the year. Elmore County showed a loss of 560 residents, or dropped 1.8 percent. The State of Idaho gained 23,208 residents over the year, or 1.7 percent; 26.2 percent of those new individuals reside in Southwest Idaho. As of July 1, 2003, 42.6 percent of Idaho residents live in Southwest Idaho. In comparison with counties across the nation, Canyon County ranked number 45 on the 100 fastest growing counties in the United States (from 2000 to 2003).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- ZiLOG announced the June closure of its Nampa semiconductor plant in April. The June 23 plant closure will put about 150 people out of work. ZiLOG employees will be offered severance packages and bonus incentives. ZiLOG is based in San Jose, California, and will outsource its semiconductor manufacturing to a company in Lubbock, Texas.
- Albertsons Inc. announced the purchase of Shaws Supermarkets based in New England. The \$2.5 million purchase means that Albertsons will bring in more than \$4 billion in revenue from Shaw's 202 stores in six New England states. Analysts predict that the purchase will benefit Albertsons by immediately increasing revenues and expanding its reach into the New England Market. With this purchase, Albertsons will be operating more than 2,500 stores in 37 states.
- YMCA held a groundbreaking for its new facility in Caldwell in early May. Caldwell's Urban Renewal Agency donated \$2.2 million for the project. This additional money means that the YMCA has met 82 percent of its final \$11 million goal.
- The J.R. Simplot Company and Idaho Fresh Pak Inc. formed an alliance making Simplot the sole foodservice marketer and distributor of Idahoan brand dehydrated potato products. Simplot also will acquire Nestle's dehydrated potato granule business at the end of June. Company officials made the following statement: "Through these agreements, we are expanding our commitment to our customers and to the potato business."
- St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center announced plans to start construction of its third hospital tower at its campus on Curtis Road in Boise. The nine-story, 400,000-square-foot project is scheduled to start in September and will take four years to complete. This project is part of the \$208 million expansion and remodeling project, and the addition of two medical office buildings in Eagle and Meridian.
- A major renovation of the Wells Fargo & Co. building in downtown Boise started in early May. Workers will upgrade the building by installing new climate-control systems, new windows and window-adjacent exterior panels, and constructing interior buildouts for tenants. Construction of an addition and plaza-style entrance on the south side of the existing building also is planned as part of the \$10 million project. Future tenants of the building include Farmers & Merchants State Bank, which has reserved about 20,000-square feet on portions of the first three floors.
- Boise State University (BSU) recently purchased the Capitol Village shopping center located at the southeast corner of Boise Avenue and University Drive. BSU purchased the property from the Yanke family who donated the difference of the land's value and the sale price to the University. No plans for the property were announced.
- Sixteen small office buildings are planned to be built near the View Pointe Building located at the corner of Federal Way and Overland Road in Boise. The buildings will total more than 61,000-square feet. Building construction is expected to be completed in 2006.
- Cheerleaders Sports Bar & Grill, a new sports bar and restaurant, is planned for the East River Development south of State Street in Eagle. Construction on the project will begin in June and is expected to be completed by November.

- Eagle Floor Inc. will anchor a new building planned for the northwest corner of State Street and Iron Eagle Drive in Eagle. Eagle Floor will use 8,000-square feet of the 13,000-square-foot building, while the rest of the building will be leased to small retailers. The project is expected to start in June and will be completed by early December.
- Recent business happenings in the Boise City MSA include: Frazier Technology Ventures, a venture capital firm, opened in early May in Boise; John L. Scott Real Estate concluded its renovation project at its 15th and Bannock office in Boise; Tuesday Morning, a close-out home accessories and gifts retailer, opened a second Boise-area store in the Eastgate Shopping Center located at Boise Avenue and Apple Street; The Vein Care Center, which specializes in treating varicose veins, opened on Fort Street in Boise; The Hangar, a new bar located between Fifth and Sixth Streets on Main Street, opened in downtown Boise; Floating Feather Express Day Spa opened at Sixth and Idaho Streets in downtown Boise; Hair Attractions opened on State Street in Boise; developers of Cathedral Place, an apartment complex in downtown Boise, announced that it would clear the site, plant grass, irrigate it, then halt the project until the housing market turns around before resuming work; Tree City Woodworking, which manufactures and installs cabinets, announced plans to build a 9,500-square-foot building on Sawyer Avenue in Garden City; The Spine Institute of Idaho announced plans to build a \$3.7 million facility north of the St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center; Hooter's announced plans to open a new restaurant in Meridian; AmeriBen, a third-party administrator of employee benefit plans, acquired Claims Management Services, which now operates as AmeriBen Utilization Management; Home Depot opened its latest retail outlet near the Edwards Cineplex complex in Nampa in April; Asian Grocery, a new Asian market specializing in authentic Asian cuisine, opened on Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa; Quiznos opened a sandwich shop in the Neon Plaza on Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa; Dollar Tree opened in Karcher Mall in Nampa; Money Mailer opened a direct mail franchise in Nampa; Payless Shoe Source moved out of Karcher Mall in Nampa and moved to a new location next to Wal-Mart on

Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell; and Maverick opened a new gas station and convenience store at the corner of Ustick Road and Tenth Avenue in Caldwell.

Valley County

- Tamarack started accepting reservations in early March for its second offering of home sites and chalet homes that will be released for sale later this year. Through the rest of 2004, Tamarack will spend \$52 million on major construction projects including the installation of two detachable quad chairlifts, a four-story Members Lodge for The Club at Tamarack Resort, 42 cottages and chalets, a rough cutting of the resort's golf course, three additional ski lifts, 25 home estates, and three stone bridges for Nordic skiing. Also, three new ski slopes will be carved, eight miles of new mountain bike trails will be cut, multiple landscaping projects will continue, and more road and utility construction projects will be completed.
- The McCall Planning and Zoning Commission recently approved a proposal by a Boise developer to build Greystone on Payette. It will consist of 30 condos in 15 buildings along Roosevelt Avenue between Hemlock and Fir Streets near Payette Lake. The project would be completed in two phases. No information was provided on when construction of Phase I would occur.

Washington County

- Weiser Memorial Hospital continues to expand its outpatient services and recently hired three new physicians that regularly visit Weiser Memorial Hospital's Medical Specialty Clinic. Orthopedic Surgeon Michael Lahey, Pediatrician Michelle DeVoe, and Urologist Eric W. Klein will visit the hospital on a regular basis.

Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist
 205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
 (208) 364-7785, ext. 3599
 E-mail: jpirtle@jobservice.us



MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Magic Valley Labor Market Area for March 2004 was 3.8 percent. This was two-tenths of a percentage point lower than February 2004 and one-tenth of a percentage point lower than March 2003. *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 3,500 workers, or 6.5 percent, year-over-year.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 4,860 workers, or 12.3 percent, from March 2003 to March 2004. Major gains occurred in *Construction* and *Wholesale Distribution* with increases of 37.0 and 10.5 percent, respectively. Decreases occurred in *Wood Processing* and *Transportation* with losses of 14.8 and 17.9 percent, respectively.

The overall Magic Valley economy remains robust with new job creation and low unemployment. Wage underemployment continues to be a problem, but it also presents an opportunity for employers since there is an excellent workforce willing and able to be trained for good careers with competitive wages and benefits.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Ag Outlook Update

Many developments have taken place in the agricultural sector since the first part of 2004, but probably none are more important than the evolution of the 2003-2004 water year. Heavy snows early in the winter that lasted well into February raised irrigators' hopes for an excellent water year that would break the five-year drought cycle. At the end of February, snow levels in most areas were close to 100 percent of normal, and some exceeded that mark. Unfortunately March was an unseasonably warm and dry month. Record high temperatures caused the snow to melt quickly and a good portion soaked into the ground; the water that ran off, did so too quickly. The result is that most areas are short of water. The estimate is that the reservoirs are about 80 percent of normal.

Groundwater was and is a serious concern in South Central Idaho. Years of dairy expansion, new farms, and growing municipalities worked together to jeopardize the flows in the Snake River Aquifer.

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties

	Mar 2004*	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	57,500	57,170	54,000	0.6	6.5
Unemployment	2,210	2,310	2,100	-4.3	5.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.0	3.9		
Total Employment	55,290	54,860	51,900	0.8	6.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	56,650	55,970	53,030	1.2	6.8
Unemployment	2,540	2,890	2,330	-12.1	9.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	5.2	4.4		
Total Employment	54,110	53,080	50,700	1.9	6.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	44,400	43,650	39,540	1.7	12.3
Goods-Providing Industries	7,810	7,610	6,780	2.6	15.2
Natural Resources & Mining	20	20	40	0.0	-50.0
Construction	2,520	2,480	1,840	1.6	37.0
Manufacturing	5,270	5,110	4,900	3.1	7.6
Food Manufacturing	3,570	3,510	3,010	1.7	18.6
Other Manufacturing	1,610	1,600	1,890	0.6	-14.8
Service-Providing Industries	36,590	36,040	32,760	1.5	11.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,170	9,960	9,770	2.1	4.1
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,940	1,720	-2.1	10.5
Retail Trade	6,280	6,020	5,740	4.3	9.4
Utilities	250	270	190	-7.4	31.6
Transportation & Warehousing	1,740	1,730	2,120	0.6	-17.9
Information	500	490	500	2.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1,740	1,790	1,700	-2.8	2.4
Professional & Business Services	6,410	6,080	5,010	5.4	27.9
Educational & Health Services	3,790	3,820	3,090	-0.8	22.7
Leisure & Hospitality	3,650	3,520	3,320	3.7	9.9
Other Services	1,520	1,500	1,480	1.3	2.7
Government Education	4,230	4,290	3,860	-1.4	9.6
Government Administration	4,580	4,590	4,030	-0.2	13.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

fer. This has threatened the water flow to aquaculture businesses in the Buhl-Hagerman areas. Lower aquifer levels and water quality threaten the trout hatcheries and jeopardize the very existence of aquaculture. A decade ago, litigation resulted in giving aquaculture businesses the ability to call for water curtailment if the aquifer falls to specified low levels. In 2003, the aquifer fell to those levels and the call was issued through the Idaho Department of Water Resources for a reduction of 26,500 acre-feet of water by groundwater users located on the north side of the Snake River Canyon in Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties. Parameters of the curtailment state that groundwater users who use water to irrigate one and one-half acre or more and had water rights later than July 13, 1962, would need to discontinue water consumption in the wells in question. Letters were sent out to 750 various users including 25 dairies and several municipalities. The dairies alone had 127,000 cows and approximately 2,400 workers. Several cities such as Jerome and Rupert would have to face curtailment of a large percentage of its wells.

Due to the potentially catastrophic economic damage, a one-year compromise was reached and negotiations will go on until next year when, hopefully, a final plan will be reached.

With this uncertain backdrop, economists and other experts look toward to the agricultural year and predict how the year will shape up economically. First, because of possible water shortage, many farmers made the decision to grow shorter growing season crops like grain and corn. Some farmers in the Mini-Cassia area took the risk of planting sugar beets a couple of weeks early despite the danger of frost or early spring wind damage. In fact, on May 10 high winds severed the beets in about 10 to 12 percent of Mini-Cassia fields forcing replanting in spite of the risk that water might run out before the crop is harvested. The outlook for sugar beets is for average to slightly below average prices. The recently signed Central American Free Trade Act (CAFTA) could have a negative effect on sugar beet prices because it will be less expensive to import cane sugar from Central America.

Potatoes continue to be a serious concern for farmers. The closure of the J.R. Simplot Plant in Heyburn and the layoffs at the McCain plant, both food processing plants, coupled with inventories of processed potatoes at 15-year highs, the overall number of contracts offered to area farmers has dropped. Many farmers will be forced to sell their crops on the open market. The popular Atkins Diet, which emphasizes limiting carbohydrates, has caught on despite some worries from health experts that more protein intake could cause cardiovascular problems. Since potatoes are high in carbohydrates, this fad has had a perceptible impact on the potato market. Food processors are trying various marketing efforts including one that seems to have a good chance of success—marketing dehydrated potatoes. Including dehydrated potatoes in shipments to war-torn areas of the world and to combat worldwide hunger may increase demand and thus stabilize the potato market. Despite such viable marketing strategies, the outlook for potatoes is lower than normal prices in the open market.

Grain crops are showing signs of serious problems. The drought and insect infestations have caused the early grain quality to be very poor in many places. Black grass bugs and Mormon crickets have put many grain fields in jeopardy. The extremely dry March weather further compounded the problems facing farmers. Even recent rain and cooler temperatures have done little to help. The early corn crop has looked healthy, however, and the hay crop also looks good. The commodities should have strong markets since the dairy prices have increased dramatically. As for wheat and barley, those farmers whose fields are free of insect trouble could have good prices since the supply of good grain will be reduced. The barley farmers could have difficulty in meeting malting barley standards. Those that do should have good prices due to reduced supply. In general, agriculture dry beans and peas will have an average year, and garden variety beans should have an above average outlook.

The beef market was rocked in late 2003 when mad cow disease was discovered in the United States. Prices plummeted and foreign export markets dried up virtually overnight. It even had an effect on processed potatoes because consumers feared that French fries tipped in beef tallow could somehow be infected. However, the domestic popular demand for beef returned quickly and the decisive moves made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture reassured many foreign buyers. For the most part, prices have risen back to nearly as high as they were before the mad cow scare. The Atkins diet has actually benefited the meat markets since it calls for the consumption of protein. The outlook for lamb, hogs, and poultry look good. Also, with the start of economic recovery, demand for trout has increased and the outlook for aquaculture is better than it has been for the last two years.

Dairy prices have made an abrupt change upward since last year when dairy prices hovered somewhere around \$9.50 per hundredweight of milk. This year, demand has increased dramatically and the price has nearly doubled from last year. As a result, more dairy workers are being hired and milk-dependent businesses such as cheese factories are hiring more workers. Dairy farmers are also contemplating expansion to take advantage of economies of scale. This is a concern for several reasons. First, dairies use a great deal of water and, with the Snake River Aquifer experiencing a severely reduced rate of recharge, water usage, water rights, and conservation issues will have to be taken into consideration. Second, Gooding, Jerome, and western Twin Falls Counties have a dairy density issue and large areas for expansion really are not feasible there. That leaves the Mini-Cassia area as a viable expansion area. The economic development plan for the new Simplot Industrial Park calls for milk-related food processing and some dairies might expand in that area. However, water usage remains an issue that must be resolved.

In summary, general agriculture in South Central Idaho is facing a very challenging year. Lack of water, crop damage, insect infestation, and uncertain prices will make it difficult for farmers. Though Idaho farmers have always been resilient and will weather these challenges, it is imperative that a viable water usage plan be developed so that the aquifer can be recharged. Agricultural hiring has been about normal. The drought situation may shorten the work year of irrigators. Finally, the most important factor is something out of anyone's control and that is the moisture received during the 2004-2005 water year. The cycle of drought must stop soon and an entire year of above normal precipitation is desperately needed. If the drought continues, severe water conservation measures will be needed as early as next year.

Gregory Rogers, Regional Labor Economist
771 N. College Road, Twin Falls, ID 83303
(208) 735-2500, ext. 3639
E-mail: grogers@jobservice.us



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

New businesses and increased employment at existing businesses, along with mild spring weather improved employment throughout the area. The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent in March 2004 from February 2004. The number of individuals employed increased by 280 while the number of individuals unemployed fell by 80. The March 2004 unemployment rate was nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the March 2003 rate when it was 5.3 percent. Over the year, the number of individuals employed increased by 300 and the number of individuals unemployed decreased by 350. The area's unemployment rate remained lower than the state rate of 4.6 percent.

Agricultural activity, the opening of new businesses, and an overall improved economy spurred an increase of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in March 2004 over February 2004 in the region. *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew from 33,300 in February 2004 to 33,700 in March 2004, a gain of 400 jobs. Mild spring weather allowed seasonal construction activity to get underway and added 180 jobs in *Construction*. Mild spring weather, special events, and seasonal activities contributed to job gains in the *Service-Providing Industries*. Job gains occurred in *Professional & Business Services* (40) primarily in agricultural services, *Educational & Health Services* (80), and *Leisure & Hospitality* (60) mostly because of special events throughout the area. *Retail Trade* lost approximately 50 jobs because of the closure of Albertsons Food Store in Pocatello; however, jobs increased in the industry because of seasonal hiring and preparation for the opening of two new businesses, which maintained the number of jobs at 4,370 despite the closure.

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	March 2004*	Feb 2004	March 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,390	40,190	40,440	0.5	-0.1
Unemployment	1,780	1,860	2,130	-4.3	-16.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.6	5.3		
Total Employment	38,610	38,330	38,310	0.7	0.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,270	41,060	41,270	0.5	0.0
Unemployment	2,050	2,250	2,380	-8.9	-13.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.5	5.8		
Total Employment	39,220	38,810	38,890	1.1	0.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	33,700	33,300	33,340	1.2	1.1
Goods-Producing Industries	4,020	3,850	4,070	4.4	-1.2
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,490	1,310	1,530	13.7	-2.6
Manufacturing	2,520	2,530	2,530	-0.4	-0.4
Food Manufacturing	460	460	440	0.0	4.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	120	120	100	0.0	20.0
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,910	1,920	1,960	-0.5	-2.6
Service-Providing Industries	29,680	29,450	29,270	0.8	1.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,640	6,690	6,580	-0.7	0.9
Wholesale Trade	1,030	1,030	1,020	0.0	1.0
Retail Trade	4,370	4,370	4,310	0.0	1.4
Utilities	50	40	40	25.0	25.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,240	1,250	1,210	-0.8	2.5
Information	680	660	600	3.0	13.3
Financial Activities	1,820	1,810	1,930	0.6	-5.7
Professional & Business Services	3,570	3,530	3,820	1.1	-6.5
Educational & Health Services	2,740	2,660	2,790	3.0	-1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,270	3,210	3,370	1.9	-3.0
Other Services	920	900	820	2.2	12.2
Government Education	5,760	5,800	5,500	-0.7	4.7
Government Administration	4,230	4,200	3,860	0.7	9.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Area Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Bank of Idaho broke ground on a new office building in the 1200 block of Yellowstone. The new facility will house the bank and its mortgage company, and includes room for future expansion. Bank of Idaho should begin operations at the new facility in August 2004.
- Development of the Yellowstone Center, located at 678 Yellowstone in Pocatello, is nearly complete. Two of four businesses confirmed at the

new shopping complex have opened: Dollartree and Tuesday Morning. Hancock Fabrics and The Mandarin House will move into the facility as soon as construction is complete.

- Dollartree opened April 28 and employs approximately 25 workers. Workers started stocking the store about two weeks before its opening. The store is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily.
- Tuesday Morning opened May 4 and employs approximately 10 workers. The store offers a large variety of household goods, toys, and stationary products. Stock changes with every new shipment of goods.
- Superior Modular Systems has purchased a new facility and moved its operation from the Gateway West complex. The new facility is located at 14134 West Hunziker Road on 20 acres and has several buildings. Superior Modular will use an 80,000-square-foot building; the remaining structures will be used by other businesses. The business works on custom construction projects ranging from single residences to commercial complexes, and employs approximately 100 workers. Superior Modular Systems had planned to leave the Pocatello area but Bannock Development Corporation was able to facilitate the purchase of a new facility and keep the business in Pocatello.
- Champion Real Estate recently renovated a dilapidated building in Old Town Pocatello and moved its operation there. The business houses five realtors and hopes to expand to ten. The business gutted and remodeled the interior, and added a new exterior façade. The business joins P&R Auto Sales, Portneuf Valley Mortgage, Convergys, and Flowers by LD who have improved or rebuilt in the area over the past few years, and substantially upgraded that portion of Old Town.
- Carpet's Plus Color Tile opened at 525 South Main Street, in the former Penguin Plumbing building. The new business offers ceramic tile, carpet, hardwood, vinyl, and laminate flooring and installation. The business employs two workers.
- Two new businesses opened in Station Square in Old Town Pocatello: Geraldines Bakery and Deli, and Renee's Lingerie and Floral Design. Geraldines opened a deli serving breakfast sandwiches, lunch, and baked goods, which are brought in from the main bakery in Chubbuck. Renee's Lingerie and Floral Design offers custom floral arrangements that

are one-of-a-kind. The shop carries several lines of lingerie and candles.

- Demolition of the former Pine Ridge Inn and Restaurant in Chubbuck is completed and construction of a new retail complex at that location has begun. Construction is well underway on a new Walgreen Drug Store and PetCo has announced plans to build a 15,000-square-foot store at the same location. Hawkins Development has announced that an Italian fast food restaurant and a smaller national retailer will also occupy space in the new complex. Upon completion, the development should employ more than 100 workers.
- A fire destroyed a long-standing Pocatello business. Gateway Performance Outfitters, which housed the Schwinn Bicycle Shop and a lock and key business, had been in Old Town since the 1960s. The business was a complete loss and several jobs were eliminated.

Bear Lake County

- Jenn's Bridal Room has opened in Montpelier. The new business, located in the owner's home at 716 Adams, offers bridal gown rentals and prom dress sales.
- The Oregon/California Trails Interpretive Center and the Rails and Trails Museum in Montpelier have opened for the spring season. The center has been busy with students visiting on a daily basis.

Bingham County

- Demolition of the Riverside Inn and Restaurant on Parkway Drive in Blackfoot has begun and a \$5 million retail center will be built in its place. The 25,000-square-foot retail center will house several national and regional retail and food service businesses
- The Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center plans to build a new facility to house it kindergarten through 5th grade charter school. The 8,631-square-foot, \$680,000 facility will accommodate up to 150 students and should be completed before school starts in the fall.
- Demolition has begun of the historic Jason Lee Memorial United Methodist Church at 168 University in Blackfoot. A new \$1.1 million church will be built to replace the original church, which was dedicated in 1886. Four stained-glass windows, which have been a historic landmark for more than 100 years in the city, were removed and preserved for use in the new church, which should be completed by mid-2005.

Continued on page 28



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The March seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) decreased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.4 percent as seen in Northeast Table 1. Of the four counties in the LMA, all showed slight decreases with the exception of Bingham County, which remained unchanged. Year-over-year, the LMA's unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point with Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson Counties all contributing; Butte County increased slightly. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, remained unchanged at 3.3 percent from February to March, but decreased two-tenths of a percentage point year-over-year. The LMA's rate in March was 1.3 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent and 2.3 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.7 percent.

The other six counties in Northeast Idaho all experienced decreases in their unemployment rates over the month with the exception of Clark County, which remained unchanged. Year-over-year, Fremont, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties all experienced decreases in their unemployment rates while Clark and Custer Counties experienced increases. Clark County showed the largest rate change, increasing 1.9 percentage points from March 2003. Current rates in these six counties range from 1.5 percent in Madison County to 7.3 percent in Custer County.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 680 over the month to 64,650. The *Construction* industry was the largest contributor, adding 210 jobs. *Trade, Transportation, & Utilities* added almost 200 jobs, with *Retail Trade* and *Wholesale Trade* contributing equally with 80 jobs each. All other industrial sectors showed increases, each adding less than 100 with the exception of *Other Service*, which showed a very minimal loss. Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,580. *Construction* added 460 jobs while *Educational &*

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	March 2004*	Feb 2004	March 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	86,040	85,560	83,660	0.6	2.8
Unemployment	2,910	2,960	3,010	-1.7	-3.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.5	3.6		
Total Employment	83,140	82,600	80,660	0.7	3.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,170	83,540	81,650	0.8	3.1
Unemployment	3,330	3,710	3,340	-10.2	-0.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.4	4.1		
Total Employment	80,840	79,830	78,310	1.3	3.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	64,650	63,970	63,070	1.1	2.5
Goods-Producing Industries	9,350	9,090	9,400	2.9	-0.5
Natural Resources & Mining	60	50	60	20.0	0.0
Construction	4,510	4,300	4,050	4.9	11.4
Manufacturing	4,780	4,740	5,290	0.8	-9.6
Food Manufacturing	2,750	2,750	3,020	0.0	-8.9
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	250	240	240	4.2	4.2
Machinery Manufacturing	420	410	430	2.4	-2.3
Other Manufacturing	1,360	1,340	1,600	1.5	-15.0
Service-Providing Industries	55,300	54,880	53,670	0.8	3.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	15,340	15,150	14,810	1.3	3.6
Wholesale Trade	5,290	5,210	5,060	1.5	4.5
Retail Trade	8,200	8,120	7,970	1.0	2.9
Utilities	120	120	110	0.0	9.1
Transportation	1,730	1,700	1,670	1.8	3.6
Information	920	910	940	1.1	-2.1
Financial Activities	2,180	2,180	2,100	0.0	3.8
Professional & Business Services	11,770	11,700	11,430	0.6	3.0
Educational & Health Services	6,720	6,690	6,270	0.4	7.2
Leisure & Hospitality	5,050	4,990	4,830	1.2	4.6
Other Services	2,000	2,010	2,280	-0.5	-12.3
Government Education	5,140	5,120	5,180	0.4	-0.8
Government Administration	6,180	6,130	5,830	0.8	6.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Health Services added 450 jobs. The *Trade* industries, *Professional & Business Services*, *Leisure & Hospitality*, and *Government Administration* individually showed increases of between 200 and 350 jobs. *Manufacturing* showed a loss of 510 jobs, almost equally between the *Food Manufacturing* and *Other Manufacturing* sectors. This is a slower time for some manufacturing businesses where temporary layoffs for maintenance can likely occur.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- SkyWest Airlines, a partner carrier of Delta Air Lines, restored its 10:30 p.m. flight from Salt Lake City to Idaho Falls after dropping it in January. Demands mostly from business travelers showed the necessity for

bringing the night flight back. The flight seats 30 passengers, adding up to a capability of 840 seats over a month's time. The Idaho Falls Regional airport has been busier than usual in the first quarter of 2004, so bringing back the flight will be a plus for the summer months when the airport sees even heavier traffic.

- Littletree Inn, at the corner of Holmes Avenue and Elva Street in Idaho Falls, is now known as the Best Value Pinecrest Inn, part of Best Value Inns of Coral Springs, Florida. Best Values is a co-op that allows small, independent properties to have the buying power and marketing resources that a big chain might have. Other than the new name and new affiliation, the Inn should remain the same.
- Mama Inez restaurant recently moved from Park Avenue of downtown Idaho Falls to Ammon Town Square between Sally Beauty Supply and Hollywood Video on the corner of Hitt Road and Seventeenth Street. Although the previous location was doing well and residents again rated it as one of the city's top 10 restaurants, the owner wanted to move to a more convenient location for its customers.
- Merry Maids, a worldwide franchise of home cleaners, opened an outlet in Idaho Falls in April. The company provides all of its own equipment, cleaning products, and supplies, and offers an initial free in-home assessment based on size of house, frequency of visits, and amount of cleaning desired. The business can be reached at 529-2329.
- Mount Vernon Assisted Living Center recently opened in Idaho Falls at 3620 Potomac Way. The 15-bed facility includes large, private rooms with personal showers and kitchenettes; a fireplace and spacious dining area; a salon; laundry facility; and a fenced back patio. Monthly assessments by a registered nurse, games, and activities are also included. The center accepts people at resident levels of care 1, 2, and 3 and is Alzheimer's secure.
- Construction began in June for the remodel of the Grand Teton Mall at 2300 East Seventeenth Street in Idaho Falls. The mall was built in 1984. The work is expected to last until November of this year. As a result, the interior of the mall will soon have a new color scheme, new flooring, new light fixtures, family room-style seating (leather sofas and chairs) with tables, new planters, new signage, and removal of skylight trusses. The outside will get new paint and new lighting at the entrances. A second phase of the project will include an enlarged family restroom and a soft play area for small children.

Other Counties

- The Rigby Recreation Center, a city-managed enterprise for the past three years in Jefferson County, is also getting a facelift. The \$100,000 expansion will give the center ample room for dances, and instruction in karate, yoga, and aerobics. It already has weight and exercise equipment. Volunteer labor helps keep the budget low, and the project should be completed by the end of summer.
- Salmon opened its Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, and Education Center for its first full season on May 1. Although several projects are still in the works for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial starting in 2005, the center is a beautiful work-in-progress with plenty to see. The 71-acre ranch has been transformed to already include a large bronze sculpture of Sacajawea with baby Jean-Baptiste; a mile trail with tepees; signage and a fish weir (used to catch salmon); an interpretive center with exhibits; a gift shop run by Ponderosa Gallery; and beautiful landscaping throughout. The Meriwether Theater, a converted barn with antique theater seats, will soon be put to use for lectures, concerts, and plays. The Community Heritage Garden will soon be in bloom with flowers, organically grown vegetables, a pioneer garden, and a xeriscape exhibit. The dictionary shows that xeriscape is "a trademark used for a landscaping method that employs drought-resistant plants in an effort to conserve resources, especially water." The Lewis & Clark research library is constantly adding to its collection of photos, documents, video documentaries and books. Still to come are the Cultural and Performing Arts Center to house the Native American Cultural Institute, a performing arts theater, a cultural heritage exhibit area and a location for educational programs. The School of Discovery will accommodate grades K through 8 with a lab to experience interactive history, culture, land management and natural sciences. The nature trail will expand to include a path along the Lemhi River, additional interpretive displays and exhibits, and trail art. Angie Hurley was recently named as the new director. Gary Van Huffel, the director from the center's onset, has taken a position with the City of Salmon as grant administrator and project manager.

Tanya Albán, Regional Labor Economist
 150 Shoup Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
 (208) 557-2500, ext. 3587
 E-mail: talban@jobservice.us

IDAHO INCOME & WAGE DATA FOR 2002, 2003 RELEASED

Information on income and wages are two of the most frequently requested labor market data items. Recently, per capita income for 2002 by county became available. The calculation of Total Personal Income (TPI) and Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) for 1999 to 2002 is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The estimate of earnings by industry for prior years was based on the Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC). With the release of the 2001 data, county per capita and total personal income data for 1999 and 2000 have been revised to conform to NAICS.

State Income

The U.S. Department of Census released the state data for 2003 in late April. The nation's PCPI was \$31,632 in 2003, up 2.3 percent from \$30,906 in 2002. Idaho's PCPI increased 1.7 percent, from \$25,476 in 2002 to \$25,911 in 2003. Idaho ranked 45th in both percent increase and PCPI in 2003. Idaho's PCPI is 82 percent of the national level.

The fastest growing states in PCPI for 2003 were in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Montana, and Mississippi, each of which grew by at least 4.0 percent. These states tend to be relatively small, have below-average population growth rates, and have above-average shares of farms and mining earnings.

No states experienced less than 1.0 percent growth between 2002 and 2003. Texas, the second most populous state, experienced the smallest percent growth at 1.1 percent. California, the most populous state, experienced a 2.3 percent growth in PCPI in 2003.

The 10 states with the highest PCPI in 2003 were:

- » Connecticut—\$43,173
- » New Jersey—\$40,427
- » Massachusetts—\$39,815
- » Maryland—\$37,331
- » New York—\$36,574
- » New Hampshire—\$34,702
- » Minnesota—\$34,443
- » Colorado—\$34,283
- » California—\$33,749
- » Illinois—\$66,690

The 10 states with the lowest PCPI were:

- » Kentucky—\$26,252
- » South Carolina—\$26,132
- » Louisiana—\$26,100
- » Montana—\$25,920

- » Idaho—\$25,911
- » New Mexico—\$25,541
- » Utah—\$24,977
- » West Virginia—\$24,379
- » Arkansas—\$24,289
- » Mississippi—\$23,448

The PCPI for the states surrounding Idaho, and Alaska and Hawaii can be found in FYI Tables 1 through 4 on pages 22-23. Of the selected states, Idaho was \$5,721 below the national average of PCPI; only Montana and Utah were lower. Population growth in Idaho has slowed from a high of 3.5 percent between 1992 and 1993 to 1.7 percent between 2002 and 2003.

County Income

FYI Table 5 on page 24 provides TPI and PCPI for the United States, Idaho, the metropolitan portions of Idaho, the nonmetropolitan portions of Idaho, and the 44 counties for 2000, 2001, and 2002. The following list includes highlights of the 2002 data that was released by the U.S Department of Commerce.

- Ada County had the highest TPI at \$10,892 million.
- Blaine County had the highest PCPI at \$44,641 and has since 1994.
- Fremont County had the largest percent increase in TPI at 10.1 percent.
- Power County had the largest percent increase in PCPI at 10.2 percent.
- Camas County had the lowest TPI at \$24 million.
- Madison County had the lowest PCPI at \$15,000, continuing its 44th ranking since 1969. Madison County, with a population of 28,959 in 2002, is the home to Brigham Young University – Idaho that has over 10,000 students enrolled resulting in a low PCPI because many students work low-paying jobs.
- Clark County had the largest percent decrease in TPI and PCPI at 7.2 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively. Butte County's PCPI dropped to \$25,950 in 2002. This is a result of the continuing drop in population and job opportunities in that county.
- Ada and Blaine Counties were the only counties that had a PCPI that exceeded the national level of \$30,906.
- Four additional counties—Bonneville, Clark, Gooding, Nez Perce, and Valley Counties—had PCPI that exceeded the state level of \$25,476.

Janell Hyer, Regional Labor Economist Supervisor
 E-mail: jhyer@jobservice.us
 317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735
 (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220

F.Y.I. Tables

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FYI Table 1: Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) by Selected States, 2003

	Dollars	Percent of National Average	Dollar Difference from Average	Rank in U.S.	Percent Change 2001-02
United States	\$31,632	100			
Alaska	33,568	106	\$1,936	12	2.3
California	33,749	107	\$2,117	9	2.3
Hawaii	30,913	98	(\$719)	19	3.5
Idaho	25,911	82	(\$5,721)	45	1.7
Montana	25,920	82	(\$5,712)	44	4.4
Nevada	31,266	99	(\$366)	18	2.3
Oregon	29,340	93	(\$2,292)	29	1.9
Utah	24,977	79	(\$6,655)	47	1.4
Washington	33,332	105	\$1,700	13	2.1
Wyoming	32,808	104	\$1,176	15	5.8

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 27, 2004

Table 2: Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) by Selected States, 2000 - 2003

	Dollars				Percent Change		
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
United States	\$29,847	\$30,527	\$30,906	\$31,632	2.3	1.2	2.3
Alaska	29,863	31,837	32,799	33,568	6.6	3.0	2.3
California	32,466	32,892	32,989	33,749	1.3	0.3	2.3
Hawaii	28,417	28,690	29,875	30,913	1.0	4.1	3.5
Idaho	24,076	24,947	25,476	25,911	3.6	2.1	1.7
Montana	22,932	24,036	24,831	25,920	4.8	3.3	4.4
Nevada	30,438	30,347	30,559	31,266	-0.3	0.7	2.3
Oregon	28,100	28,512	28,792	29,340	1.5	1.0	1.9
Utah	23,878	24,388	24,639	24,977	2.1	1.0	1.4
Washington	31,780	32,271	32,638	33,332	1.5	1.1	2.1
Wyoming	28,463	30,197	31,021	32,808	6.1	2.7	5.8

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 27, 2004

F.Y.I. Tables (cont.)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Table 3: Total Personal Income (TPI) by Selected States, 2000 - 2003

	Dollars			Percent Change			
	2000	2001	2002	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2002-03
United States	\$8,422,074,000	\$8,703,023,000	\$8,900,007,000	\$9,199,007,802	3.3	2.3	3.4
Alaska	18,741,427	20,142,479	21,040,260	21,779,422	7.5	4.5	3.5
California	1,103,841,912	1,135,847,818	1,154,684,900	1,197,550,472	2.9	1.7	3.7
Hawaii	34,450,883	35,146,770	37,064,363	38,876,343	2.0	5.5	4.9
Idaho	31,289,782	32,962,594	34,217,217	35,402,793	5.3	3.8	3.5
Montana	20,716,220	21,775,704	22,605,735	23,784,336	5.1	3.8	5.2
Nevada	61,427,864	63,565,423	66,235,332	70,072,668	3.5	4.2	5.8
Oregon	96,401,727	99,012,343	101,358,912	104,439,224	2.7	2.4	3.0
Utah	53,561,211	55,594,428	57,133,565	58,731,862	3.8	2.8	2.8
Washington	187,853,404	193,395,290	198,017,690	204,373,240	3.0	2.4	3.2
Wyoming	14,063,058	14,908,724	15,474,128	16,444,753	6.0	3.8	6.3

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 27, 2004

Table 4: Population by Selected States, 2000 -2003

	Numbers of Persons				Percent Change		
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
United States	282,177,754	285,093,813	287,973,924	290,809,777	1.0	1.0	1.0
Alaska	627,576	632,674	641,482	648,818	0.8	1.4	1.1
California	33,999,879	34,533,054	35,001,986	35,484,453	1.6	1.4	1.4
Hawaii	1,212,343	1,225,038	1,240,663	1,257,608	1.0	1.3	1.4
Idaho	1,299,610	1,321,309	1,343,124	1,366,332	1.7	1.7	1.7
Montana	903,380	905,954	910,372	917,621	0.3	0.5	0.8
Nevada	2,018,104	2,094,633	2,167,455	2,241,154	3.8	3.5	3.4
Oregon	3,430,706	3,472,629	3,520,355	3,559,596	1.2	1.4	1.1
Utah	2,243,129	2,279,590	2,318,789	2,351,467	1.6	1.7	1.4
Washington	5,911,043	5,992,760	6,067,060	6,131,445	1.4	1.2	1.1
Wyoming	494,078	493,720	498,830	501,242	-0.1	1.0	0.5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 27, 2004

F.Y.I. Tables (cont.)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FYI Table 5: Idaho Total Personal Income (TPI) and Per Capita Personal Income (PCI)

Area name	Total Personal Income (TPI) - (in millions of \$)				Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) - (in millions of \$)			
	(millions of dollars)			Percent change (dollars) 2001-2002				Rank in State
	2000	2001	2002		2000	2001	2002	
United States	8,422,074	8,703,023	8,900,007	2.3	29,847	30,527	30,906	
Metropolitan portion	7,345,921	7,585,056	7,751,013	2.2	31,488	32,126	32,459	
Nonmetropolitan portion	1,076,153	1,117,967	1,148,994	2.8	22,014	22,820	23,362	
Idaho	31,290	32,963	34,217	3.8	24,076	24,947	25,476	
Idaho Metropolitan Portion	21,132	22,126	22,868	3.4	26,018	26,597	26,906	
Idaho Nonmetropolitan Portion	10,158	10,837	11,349	4.7	20,841	22,142	23,012	
Ada	10,156	10,561	10,892	3.1	33,518	33,771	34,072	2
Adams	75	78	81	3.9	21,750	22,546	23,189	16
Bannock	1,577	1,684	1,726	2.5	20,860	22,180	22,754	18
Bear Lake	107	120	121	1.4	16,684	18,637	19,320	41
Benewah	186	196	201	2.2	20,217	21,769	22,271	21
Bingham	806	824	883	7.2	19,269	19,513	20,839	28
Blaine	821	872	909	4.2	42,952	44,116	44,641	1
Boise	145	150	157	5	21,538	21,650	22,309	20
Bonner	754	793	836	5.3	20,363	21,270	21,865	23
Bonneville	1,961	2,120	2,198	3.7	23,656	25,297	25,815	7
Boundary	169	172	183	6.6	17,045	17,371	18,316	42
Butte	60	64	66	1.7	20,603	22,536	22,436	19
Camas	21	22	24	8.3	21,314	22,067	23,267	15
Canyon	2,624	2,747	2,824	2.8	19,715	19,747	19,432	40
Caribou	151	156	158	1.1	20,605	21,102	21,749	24
Cassia	462	503	525	4.3	21,578	23,355	24,324	11
Clark	24	27	25	-7.2	23,186	27,463	25,950	6
Clearwater	175	185	193	4.4	19,738	21,444	22,805	17
Custer	98	102	100	-2.3	22,622	24,020	24,023	14
Elmore	586	608	652	7.1	20,132	20,768	22,138	22
Franklin	212	227	231	1.4	18,641	19,781	19,610	39
Fremont	213	219	241	10.1	18,064	18,529	20,322	32
(includes Yellowstone Park)								
Gem	295	307	308	0	19,377	19,922	19,753	37
Gooding	333	391	393	0.4	23,473	27,500	27,589	4
Idaho	294	310	322	4	18,976	20,034	20,764	29
Jefferson	360	374	407	8.9	18,741	19,347	20,619	31
Jerome	402	453	463	2.3	21,785	24,523	24,787	10
Kootenai	2,521	2,639	2,761	4.6	23,014	23,615	24,164	12
Latah	741	806	846	5	21,227	22,905	24,141	13
Lemhi	152	163	168	3.2	19,673	21,220	21,645	25
Lewis	86	90	94	3.7	22,829	24,987	25,154	8
Lincoln	82	85	90	4.9	20,128	20,502	21,184	27
Madison	381	400	434	8.6	13,871	14,228	15,000	44
Minidoka	351	362	382	5.7	17,445	18,512	19,664	38
Nez Perce	931	959	988	3	24,903	25,935	26,578	5
Oneida	68	72	73	0.3	16,525	17,375	17,620	43
Owyhee	196	211	217	2.6	18,371	19,342	19,799	36
Payette	387	411	424	3.2	18,739	19,727	20,016	35
Power	155	146	160	9.1	20,640	19,515	21,512	26
Shoshone	263	266	271	1.9	19,152	19,774	20,714	30
Teton	114	131	137	4.9	18,612	20,252	20,072	34
Twin Falls	1,401	1,540	1,624	5.5	21,778	23,838	24,814	9
Valley	212	221	231	4.5	27,783	28,717	30,351	3
Washington	184	194	202	4	18,410	19,480	20,281	33

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of Economic Analysis, May 25, 2003

COUNTY POPULATION DATA RELEASED

The Population Division of the U.S. Bureau of the Census released county population data for 2003. The latest information has been combined with the data released since the 2000 census in Table 6 on page 26.

2003 POPULATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Canyon County had the largest percent and numeric increase with 4.3 percent, or 6,186, new residents.
- Five counties added over 1,000 new residents: Ada, Bonneville, Canyon, Kootenai, and Twin Falls Counties.
- Eleven counties added fewer than 100 residents: Adams, Bear Lake, Benewah, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Latah, Lewis, Lincoln, Oneida, and Washington Counties.
- Twelve counties lost population between 2002 and 2003. These were: Bannock, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Idaho, Lemhi, Minidoka, Power, and Shoshone Counties.
- Clark County had the largest percent decrease at a 5.9 percent drop, or 57 fewer residents.
- Elmore County had the largest numeric loss of population at 560 fewer residents, or a 1.9 percent drop.
- Ada County has had the largest county population in Idaho since 1969.
- Since 1992, Ada, Canyon, Kootenai, Bonneville, Bannock, and Twin Falls Counties have been ranked one through six, respectively, in population.
- Clark County, for the third year, had the smallest population at 904 persons.
- Clark and Camas County have vied for the smallest populated county. In 2001 they switched places--Camas County's population exceeded 1,000 and Clark County's fell below 1,000.

Population growth is categorized by births, deaths, international migration, and domestic migration. An international migrant is someone who has

moved from a county outside of the United States; a domestic/internal migrant is described as a person who moved to Idaho from another state. Contributing to the state's 2003 population growth were 20,184 births, 2,907 international migrates, and 10,132 domestic migrates. During the last year 10,016 deaths were recorded in the state. This data by county is in FYI Table 7 on page 27.

Demographic Highlights of the 2001 to 2002 Changes:

- Ada County had the highest number of births—4,691; deaths—1,847; and international migrants—812.
- Canyon County had the highest number of domestic migrants—3,990.
- Canyon County had the second highest number of births—2,737; deaths—1,035; and international migrants—430.
- Camas County had the fewest births—14—and 8 deaths.
- Elmore County had the largest decrease in domestic migrants—1,038—edging out Bannock County's loss of 1,031 for the dubious honor.
- Fifteen other counties experienced losses in domestic migrants contributing to an overall population loss in fourteen counties.

For more information, contact one of the six local area Regional Labor Economists (names and phone numbers are listed at the end of each regional section of the newsletter) or access the data from the U.S. Bureau of Census on the Internet at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html>.

Janell Hyer, Regional Labor Economist Supervisor

E-mail: jhyer@jobservice.us

317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735

(208) 332-3570, ext. 3220

FYI Table 6: Idaho County Population Estimates - July 1, 2003

	Census 2000 Population	7/1/2000 Population	7/1/2001 Population	7/1/2002 Population	7/1/2003 Population	Percent Change					Rank 2003
						2003- 2002	2002- 2001	2001- 2000	2003- 2000	Census to 2003	
United States	281,421,906	282,177,754	285,093,813	287,973,924	290,809,777	1.0	0.0	1.0	3.0	3.3	
Idaho	1,293,953	1,299,610	1,321,309	1,343,124	1,366,332	2	2	2	5	6	
Ada	300,904	302,992	312,714	319,672	325,151	1.7	2.2	3.2	7.3	8.1	1
Adams	3,476	3,467	3,441	3,476	3,515	1.1	1.0	-0.7	1.4	1.1	41
Bannock	75,565	75,582	75,907	75,857	75,630	-0.3	-0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	5
Bear Lake	6,411	6,427	6,424	6,283	6,306	0.4	-2.2	0.0	-1.9	-1.6	36
Benewah	9,171	9,193	9,025	9,013	9,029	0.2	-0.1	-1.8	-1.8	-1.5	28
Bingham	41,735	41,807	42,232	42,378	42,926	1.3	0.3	1.0	2.7	2.9	7
Blaine	18,991	19,124	19,777	20,358	20,791	2.1	2.9	3.4	8.7	9.5	15
Boise	6,670	6,747	6,919	7,052	7,236	2.6	1.9	2.5	7.2	8.5	34
Bonner	36,835	37,023	37,305	38,218	39,162	2.5	2.4	0.8	5.8	6.3	8
Bonneville	82,522	82,884	83,824	85,141	87,007	2.2	1.6	1.1	5.0	5.4	4
Boundary	9,871	9,927	9,880	9,988	10,173	1.9	1.1	-0.5	2.5	3.1	26
Butte	2,899	2,900	2,859	2,921	2,873	-1.6	2.2	-1.4	-0.9	-0.9	42
Camas	991	981	1,014	1,042	1,049	0.7	2.8	3.4	6.9	5.9	43
Canyon	131,441	133,075	139,117	145,322	151,508	4.3	4.5	4.5	13.9	15.3	2
Caribou	7,304	7,310	7,394	7,250	7,152	-1.4	-1.9	1.1	-2.2	-2.1	33
Cassia	21,416	21,410	21,539	21,578	21,610	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.9	0.9	13
Clark	1,022	1,030	978	961	904	-5.9	-1.7	-5.0	-12.2	-11.5	44
Clearwater	8,930	8,891	8,628	8,469	8,401	-0.8	-1.8	-3.0	-5.5	-5.9	29
Custer	4,342	4,340	4,265	4,165	4,090	-1.8	-2.3	-1.7	-5.8	-5.8	38
Elmore	29,130	29,103	29,285	29,432	28,872	-1.9	0.5	0.6	-0.8	-0.9	11
Franklin	11,329	11,367	11,500	11,766	11,874	0.9	2.3	1.2	4.5	4.8	24
Fremont	11,819	11,794	11,833	11,878	12,107	1.9	0.4	0.3	2.7	2.4	23
Gem	15,181	15,217	15,434	15,573	15,795	1.4	0.9	1.4	3.8	4.0	19
Gooding	14,155	14,201	14,227	14,240	14,329	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.9	1.2	21
Idaho	15,511	15,470	15,452	15,498	15,413	-0.5	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	20
Jefferson	19,155	19,231	19,327	19,741	20,194	2.3	2.1	0.5	5.0	5.4	16
Jerome	18,342	18,442	18,463	18,679	18,913	1.3	1.2	0.1	2.6	3.1	18
Kootenai	108,685	109,528	111,732	114,265	117,481	2.8	2.3	2.0	7.3	8.1	3
Latah	34,935	34,892	35,182	35,045	35,087	0.1	-0.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	10
Lemhi	7,806	7,745	7,665	7,757	7,731	-0.3	1.2	-1.0	-0.2	-1.0	30
Lewis	3,747	3,746	3,619	3,729	3,748	0.5	3.0	-3.4	0.1	0.0	40
Lincoln	4,044	4,060	4,163	4,226	4,321	2.2	1.5	2.5	6.4	6.8	37
Madison	27,467	27,435	28,124	28,959	29,878	3.2	3.0	2.5	8.9	8.8	12
Minidoka	20,174	20,099	19,537	19,444	19,349	-0.5	-0.5	-2.8	-3.7	-4.1	17
Nez Perce	37,410	37,381	36,983	37,171	37,699	1.4	0.5	-1.1	0.9	0.8	9
Oneida	4,125	4,128	4,170	4,125	4,132	0.2	-1.1	1.0	0.1	0.2	39
Owyhee	10,644	10,695	10,915	10,943	11,186	2.2	0.3	2.1	4.6	5.1	25
Payette	20,578	20,633	20,824	21,181	21,466	1.3	1.7	0.9	4.0	4.3	14
Power	7,538	7,512	7,498	7,419	7,373	-0.6	-1.1	-0.2	-1.9	-2.2	32
Shoshone	13,771	13,746	13,446	13,076	12,993	-0.6	-2.8	-2.2	-5.5	-5.6	22
Teton	5,999	6,113	6,450	6,829	7,058	3.4	5.9	5.5	15.5	17.7	35
Twin Falls	64,284	64,347	64,590	65,455	67,082	2.5	1.3	0.4	4.3	4.4	6
Valley	7,651	7,642	7,682	7,597	7,743	1.9	-1.1	0.5	1.3	1.2	31
Washington	9,977	9,973	9,966	9,952	9,995	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.2	27

SOURCE: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, April 11, 2004

FYI Table 7: Idaho County Components of Population Change - July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2003

ANNUAL ESTIMATES							
Natural Increase				Net Migration			
	Total Population Change	Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Internal
State of Idaho	23,208	10,168	20,184	10,016	13,039	2,907	10,132
Counties							
Ada	5,479	2,844	4,691	1,847	2,704	812	1,892
Adams	39	-8	27	35	46	3	43
Bannock	-227	716	1,310	594	-955	76	-1,031
Bear Lake	23	9	80	71	18	1	17
Benewah	16	15	105	90	2	1	1
Bingham	548	450	744	294	109	81	28
Blaine	433	175	241	66	261	114	147
Boise	184	46	73	27	136	11	125
Bonner	944	29	386	357	901	14	887
Bonneville	1,866	759	1,434	675	1,116	109	1,007
Boundary	185	47	124	77	136	1	135
Butte	-48	31	57	26	-81	4	-85
Camas	7	6	14	8	2	1	1
Canyon	6,186	1,702	2,737	1,035	4,420	430	3,990
Caribou	-98	38	93	55	-133	7	-140
Cassia	32	206	368	162	-175	58	-233
Clark	-57	6	19	13	-65	15	-80
Clearwater	-68	-23	79	102	-43		-43
Custer	-75	-8	33	41	-67	3	-70
Elmore	-560	382	524	142	-964	74	-1,038
Franklin	108	135	231	96	-24	28	-52
Fremont	229	119	218	99	111	45	66
Gem	222	44	211	167	181	27	154
Gooding	89	22	197	175	70	65	5
Idaho	-85	4	142	138	-86	5	-91
Jefferson	453	200	362	162	254	46	208
Jerome	234	172	318	146	67	85	-18
Kootenai	3,216	485	1,446	961	2,720	49	2,671
Latah	42	178	397	219	-134	125	-259
Lemhi	-26	-31	55	86	6	6	
Lewis	19	19	41	22		1	-1
Lincoln	95	41	75	34	55	20	35
Madison	919	323	461	138	590	41	549
Minidoka	-95	159	341	182	-260	77	-337
Nez Perce	528	73	447	374	462	29	433
Oneida	7	4	55	51	5	2	3
Owyhee	243	97	190	93	149	62	87
Payette	285	145	324	179	143	23	120
Power	-46	61	99	38	-109	33	-142
Shoshone	-83	-27	120	147	-54	8	-62
Teton	229	103	126	23	125	51	74
Twin Falls	1,627	333	977	644	1,293	220	1,073
Valley	146	33	75	42	114	5	109
Washington	43	54	137	83	-7	39	-46

SOURCE: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, April 9, 2004

Sunset Mall along Highway 95; Pho Thanh & Café, serving Vietnamese food at 2108 North Fourth Street; Wild Bill's Cookhouse at 320 Sherman Avenue; and Paybay, a business that helps sellers use eBay by researching the value, writing the listing, photographing items, and handling the shipping, at 15 East Honeysuckle.

Shoshone County

- After rising to \$8.79 an ounce in early April, the price of silver fell to \$5.92 at the end of April. That's considerably higher than any prices seen from June 1998 through November 2003, when prices hovered around \$4.50. For more than a century, silver prices have been the major determinant of the economic well-being of most Shoshone County residents. Although silver mining has declined significantly, Shoshone County mines directly employ about 300 people. Higher prices mean higher spending by inves-

tors, suppliers, and miners, whose wages are tied to silver prices. They also make it more likely that mines may reopen.

- Lookout Pass Ski Area, the ski area along Interstate 90 near the Idaho-Montana border, enjoyed its best ski season ever, doubling attendance this season over last season. Great snow conditions and recent improvements and terrain expansions helped Lookout post nearly 50,000 skier visits. This summer, Lookout will build a 4,000-square-foot addition to its lodge and add an acre of parking. In the summer of 2005, it will again expand its ski terrain.

Kathryn Tacke, Regional Labor Economist
1221 W. Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
E-mail: ktacke@jobservice.us

Southeast Idaho News — *(continued from page 18)*

Caribou County

- Caribou Memorial Hospital held an open house to show the public its \$130,000 upgrade. Upgrades included a new human resources office, an Employee Learning Center, and new carpeting and wall coverings in the main hallways. The hospital used Upper Payment Limit (UPL) funds to pay for the upgrades and plans to use UPL funds this year to replace the hospital's roof.
- Excavation work has begun and construction of a new Caribou County Jail should begin this summer. Construction of the new facility will allow Caribou County to house inmates in their own facility instead of paying other counties to provide that service. The new jail will add jobs, but save money in transportation costs and keep the money for housing inmates in the county.
- The Caribou County Fairgrounds in Grace recently received a \$138,000 facelift. Improvements include new restrooms and shower facilities, 16 full-service RV units, and new sod and trees.

Franklin County

- Demolition has begun to clear the former Preston Lumber site for a new development. Leading Technology Development of Cache, Utah, will begin construction of a Family Dollar Discount Store at the

location. Construction of the new facility should take approximately 90 days.

Oneida County

- Hess Pumice Products held an open house to showcase their new welding and machine shop, which is located in Malady. The shop, which will be used to do maintenance on the company's equipment and vehicles, may also be used to provide the same work for other businesses.
- Malad's Classis Car Show increased by 32 entries this year over last year. The successful annual event, sponsored by the Malad Chamber of Commerce, brings entrants and visitors to the city that provides an economic boost to local businesses.

Power County

- FMC Corporation has begun demolition of the Power County facility. Efforts to find alternative uses for the facility continue and the company intends to support that effort by leaving critical assets intact. Dismantling will continue over the next two years.

Shelley Allen, Regional Labor Economist
430 N. 5th Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713
E-mail: sallan@jobservice.us

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a

total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are five MSAs in Idaho—Boise City-Nampa MSA (including Ada and Canyon Counties), Coeur d’Alene MSA (Kootenai County), Idaho Falls MSA (Jefferson and Bonneville Counties), Lewiston MSA (Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington), Logan MSA (Franklin County and the Logan, Utah, Metro Area), and Pocatello City (Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.